



## **Opportunities Industrialization Center of the Midwest St. Louis, MO**

<b>Project Title</b>	Opportunities Industrialization Center of the Midwest IDA Program
<b>Contact Information</b>	Shawna Collier 5814 Thekla St. Louis, MO 63120 (314) 771-7755
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$500,000
<b>Nonfederal Support</b>	\$500,000
<b>Project Period</b>	September 2004 – September 2009
<b>Highlights</b>	<p>Opportunities Industrialization Center of the Midwest (OIC of the Midwest) IDA program, operating through four separate partner agencies, will work with employers to offer IDAs as fringe benefits for 280 low-wage employees. The IDAs will offer employee participants a \$2 to \$1 match rate for their savings in order to seek post-secondary education, become homeowners, or start a small business. The program will recruit participants and operate IDA programs in four different geographical areas using a shared program model and work plan. Partners in each location will provide a full range of case management, training, and other social services to participants.</p>
<b>Target Population</b>	<p>Low-income individuals working for small employers, especially targeting childcare, janitorial, and food service industries in four designated areas in Louisiana, Nebraska, and Texas.</p>
<b>Grantee/Collaborative Description</b>	<p>All four partners for this IDA program are affiliates of the Opportunities Industrialization Center of America (OIC of America). This national organization is a nonprofit network of employment and training programs bound together by the commitment to help the disadvantaged realize their true potential through life skills development, basic education, job-skills training, and employment assistance.</p> <p>OIC of the Midwest, a St. Louis, Missouri affiliate of the OIC of America, is the lead agency for the project. Other major partners include Bexar County OIC in San Antonio, Texas; OIC of Ouachita in Monroe and Richwood, Louisiana; and OIC of Omaha, Nebraska. US Bank will hold the IDAs and will also provide some financial training. The agencies will work with the business owners whose employees are participating to help raise the funding.</p>